

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL LEROY COLLINS, JR.

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rear Admiral Leroy Collins, Jr., who was taken from this world after a tragic accident in South Tampa.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Admiral Collins continued to serve our country first on active duty and then in the Naval Reserves for 34 years. He continued his dedication to country as an advocate for veterans' health and economic well being in his role as Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

At 75, Admiral Collins was still an active member of the community. In addition to maintaining a rigorous athletic schedule, he served on the boards of Tampa General Hospital, Collins Center for Public Policy, S.S. *American Victory*, and the Armed Forces Financial Network.

I know that his wife, children, and grandchildren played an enormous role in his life and brought him great joy. It is with great sympathy that I extend my condolences to his family. I am honored to have known Admiral Collins. He has truly served our community, State, and country well and will be missed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF REV. HAROLD BLACKBURN

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay homage to the memory of a much beloved servant of the Lord—and good friend to many in South Alabama—who recently passed away at the age of 93.

For some, a career of nearly two decades working for the phone company would be the foundation of their life, yet for Harold Blackburn, a native of Citronelle, Alabama, it was just a warm-up. He was destined for a higher calling.

After 19 years at South Central Bell, Mr. Blackburn traded his business clothes for the cloth, becoming a minister of the Lord.

For the next 36 years, Reverend Blackburn—or Brother Harold as he was affectionately known—embarked upon a grand journey that took him from the pulpit to the field, first serving as pastor for a number of Southern Baptist churches all across Alabama.

From the church sanctuary, Reverend Blackburn turned his message to outreach, becoming Director of Missions, serving churches in Clarke and Chambers counties for 23 years, and then leading Baldwin County church missions programs for another 13 years.

Reverend Blackburn loved nature and was also an avid hunter. In his retirement years in Silverhill, Alabama, he was well known for his interest in taxidermy.

Without question, this man of incredible faith lived a long and remarkable life with a legacy of dear friends that literally stretches from one end of the state to the other.

In this time of deep personal loss, I offer my condolences to his wife and childhood sweetheart, Miriam, their two daughters, Carol Ann and Deborah Kay, their six grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren.

Make no mistake: he loved his family, his friends, his country and his God, and not necessarily in that order.

Rev. Blackburn's life was an inspiration to everyone he met and his memory will long linger in our hearts. May he rest in peace.

HONORING SOJOURN TO THE PAST ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1058, which honors and praises the Sojourn to the Past organization on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This resolution recognizes an important educational program that helps students understand the invaluable role of the Civil Rights Movement in our Nation's moral and social development.

I thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership in bringing this measure to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this resolution, Congressman Louis, whose role in the Civil Rights Movement and work as a public servant has made the United States a more tolerant and democratic country.

Madam Speaker, the Civil Rights Movement was a transformative experience for the United States. It helped our Nation grow out of a culture of bigotry, segregation, and oppression, and extend the democratic freedoms promised by our Nation's founders to people that had, for more than two centuries, been deemed second-class citizens. It elevated our moral standing in the world and brought our Nation closer to meeting the ideals set forth in our founding documents.

It is absolutely essential that every high school student in the United States understands the moral gravity and massive historical significance of the Civil Rights Movement. The Sojourn to the Past project helps us achieve this goal. Established in 1999, the Sojourn to the Past project takes high school students on a 10-day excursion along the path of the Civil Rights Movement in the southern United States, engaging them with historical sites and talks with prominent veteran leaders of the movement. The longest running civil rights education program in the United States, the program has conducted 55 sojourns and introduced over 5,000 high school juniors and seniors to the lessons, locations, and leaders of the Civil Rights Movement.

Madam Speaker, the Civil Rights Movement is not only a vital part of our past, but its lessons are instructive in the ongoing efforts to end violence, discrimination, hatred, and inequality in the United States and across the world. The work of the Sojourn to the Past program is extremely commendable. It instills in our future leaders the knowledge and understanding needed to bring continued moral and social progress to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN J. BRAVERMAN'S EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Stephen J. Braverman, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to senior citizens in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to commend him for eighteen years of service to Hebrew SeniorLife and the Institute for Aging Research.

During his tenure, Steve provided rigorous medical research of new models and standards by which to enhance long-term care for the aging community. Steve has worked to maximize the strength, vigor, and physical well-being, and preserve the cognitive and functional capabilities of senior citizens as they age.

I would also like to acknowledge his continued commitment to developing and managing two of the largest capital campaigns for senior care, housing, and research throughout the country, which enhance the resources for age-related disease and disability. In addition, he has actively sought and secured endowed chairs for research in Quality and Health Care Standards and Aging Brain Research.

Most importantly, Steve has been a consistent leader in his community, and a strong mentor and friend to his colleagues.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with his family, friends and contemporaries to thank Steve for his remarkable service to the Institute for Aging Research and the people of Massachusetts. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Stephen J. Braverman's efforts and dedicated service to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 26, 2010, I was unable to cast my vote in support of the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act.

I am in support of this legislation and its passage.

CELEBRATING THE 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF FRED AND BETTY WILLIAMS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the marriage of Fred and Betty Williams. Fred and Betty embody all that marriage should be: fidelity, loyalty, and a strong bond formed by love. They, and all that they have done to help